

Top Secret 217

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday March 11, 1977

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday, March 11, 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR-CHINA: Propaganda Attacks

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[] Soviet media have resumed the routine propaganda attacks on China that they carried prior to the death of Mao Tse-tung last September. The attacks are still not as numerous or as harsh as they were in the period before Mao's death, but they do suggest an additional easing of Moscow's self-imposed moratorium on criticism of the Chinese. There were two earlier breaks in the moratorium in February.

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[] On March 3, the "unofficial" Radio Peace and Progress took the Chinese to task for allegedly supporting Western military activity in the South Pacific. On March 6 and 8 more attacks followed; the most important was a replay in *Pravda* on March 6 of an article in the Hungarian party paper criticizing China for seeking to improve relations only with capitalist countries.

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[] The Soviets' resumption of routine propaganda attacks on the Chinese comes less than a week after the return to Moscow of Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev, Moscow's chief negotiator at the Sino-Soviet border talks in Peking, and provides further evidence that the most recent round of talks with the Chinese was no more successful than previous rounds have been.

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[] Soviet media continue to proclaim Moscow's desire for an improvement in relations with China. On Soviet Armed Forces Day in late February, the Soviets also gave China's annual wreath-laying ceremonies at Soviet graves in China a very positive cast. For the past decade or so, China's handling of the event has usually occasioned a stiff Soviet propaganda blast. []

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ROMANIA: Earthquake Report

25X1 [] The state of emergency imposed in Romania following last week's earthquake was lifted yesterday--except in Bucharest--and a number of industrial facilities have apparently resumed at least partial production. Ceausescu has assured the population that no after-quake is likely to occur, as has been postulated by the Earthquake Center of the US Geological Survey.

25X1 [] In a rare press conference, President Ceausescu set the provisional death toll at 1,387 but added that the final figure would certainly be higher. He initially estimated damage--not including private property--at \$500 million to \$1 billion.

25X1 [] Ceausescu nevertheless declared that Romania would not cut back on its economic growth plans, and he even pledged to overfulfill original targets. He added that Romania would welcome loans from Western countries--specifically the US--if they were on "advantageous terms."

25X1 [] Even before the earthquake, Romania was unlikely to meet its overly ambitious economic goals, and the damage from the quake is sure to slow economic growth. Ceausescu's insistence on even greater popular sacrifices to meet the plan is likely to increase resentment of his policy of forced-draft economic growth. []

AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT

25X1 [] The Arab and African heads of state ended their three-day summit in Cairo on Wednesday with ringing declarations of their desire for political and economic solidarity.

25X1 [] Tangible results of the meeting do not appear to be nearly as great as has been suggested by the participants, and Arab willingness to follow through on promises to the Africans remains to be tested. The leaders approved plans for creating a permanent organization for Arab-African cooperation and for holding summit meetings every three years.

25X1 [] Black African hopes for major aid increases were largely frustrated. Arab delegates rejected an African proposal for \$2.2 billion in new multilateral aid over the next

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five years as unwarranted and excessive. Instead, the Arabs-- represented by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar--offered little more than \$200 million in multilateral funds beyond capital subscriptions they have already made.

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[] The Arabs pledged the bulk of the money to the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, which they control, rather than channeling the funds through the African-controlled African Development Bank, as sought by the Africans.

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[] The four Arab nations also committed some \$1.2 billion bilaterally over a five-year period through their national foreign development agencies. The commitments on an annual average, however, do not represent increases over the amounts pledged by the four Arab donors last year.

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[] The political backing sought by the Arabs also was somewhat watered down. The joint political declaration issued at the conclusion of the summit condemned Israeli practices in the occupied territories but was no stronger in its support for the Arabs' struggle against Israel than in its backing for the Africans' struggle against "racism."

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[] The declaration did not--whether at African or at Arab behest is not clear--directly equate Zionism with racism, although it did this indirectly by denouncing "neocolonialism, Zionism, racial segregation, and all other forms of racial discrimination." []

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